

Newsletter

Spring 2007

vol. 10, issue 2



Sunflower Chapter
of the American
Historical Society
of Germans
from Russia

Another new world: Our Volga German neighbors to the South

by Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA

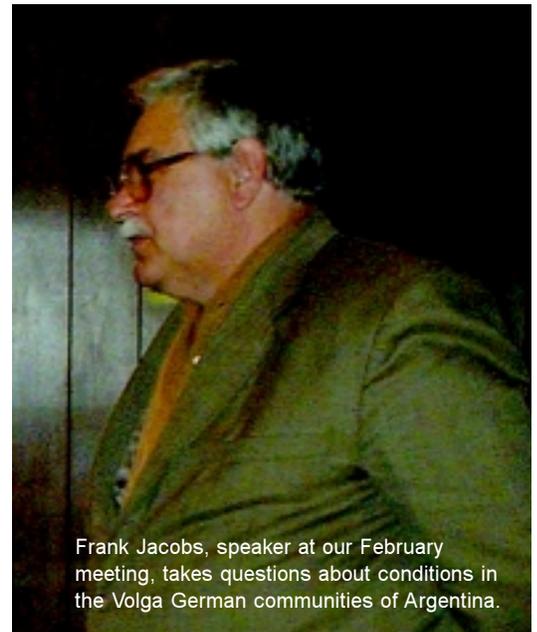
THEY HAVE FIRST NAMES such as Juan and Maria, but last names including Dreiling, Kronnewitter, Basgall, Denning, and Wasinger. They cultivate crops and raise cattle in a land where palm trees grow. Their musicians play German polkas with a distinctive Latin flair. And the older ones speak the Volga German dialect with a noticeable Spanish accent. They are our Volga German cousins whose ancestors journeyed to Brazil and Argentina when ours first settled in Kansas.

Frank Jacobs came from Topeka to share a cornucopia of knowledge about them at our February 18 chapter meeting. His trip last summer to Argentina, it turns out, was long in the making. Frank said his family first received a letter from Jacobs family members to the South in 1933. But only in recent years did he cultivate a correspondence with these relatives, which finally culminated in his face-to-face meeting with them.

The first Argentine village Frank told us about was San Francisco, originally named Pfeifer by its nineteenth-century founders. It still contains the town's first school and church and about a dozen old brick houses no longer occupied. The cemetery, curiously, is set up in the same style as cemeteries found in Russia today: each grave is marked by an iron cross surrounded by a small iron fence, and the cemetery itself is overgrown with grasses and shrubs.

Next, Frank showed us videotaped scenes of Valle Maria, once known as Marienthal, and the nearby village of Brasilia, which was settled by Volga Germans who had originally gone to Brazil but did not stay there. In downtown Brasilia was a historical monument depicting a Volga German pioneer family, somewhat like Pete Felten's sculpture in Victoria, Kansas.

Frank explained that the area's main crops are soybeans, corn, and summer wheat. Chicken farms are numerous. The land is flat and the soil is rich and black. While some pristine areas remain, unfortunately most of the land has been affected by heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides. To reach the Volga German settlements of Argentina, one must fly to Buenos Aires, then journey inland. If done by car, which is more interesting than flying, the drive takes five hours.



Frank Jacobs, speaker at our February meeting, takes questions about conditions in the Volga German communities of Argentina.



Apr. 29

Our last meeting
before the
convention starts!

SOCIAL...12:30
MEETING...1:00

Come to the old Munjor schoolhouse and help nail down our plans for Hays' first-ever international AHSGR convention.

NEWS & MEDIA TIDBITS

--PepsiCo is building its second potato chips factory in the Saratov region. On nearby land, potatoes will be grown. The new enterprise will cost \$120 million and will employ over 1000. PepsiCo has been in Russia since 1974 and currently has six plants in the country.

--Russia's Finance Ministry reported a

budget surplus of 471.86 billion rubles for the first quarter of 2007. Currently the US dollar is worth nearly 26 Russian rubles.

--Foreign auto sales are up by 74% in Russia for the first quarter of 2007, when compared to last year's first quarter. Ford was on top with 39,071 vehicles sold, and Chevrolet came in second with 36,730. The Toyota is the third-most popular foreign car in Russia.

--The Interfax News Agency opened its twentieth press center last year in Saratov. Other Interfax press centers are located in more than twenty different cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Rostov-on-Don, and Samara. The website www.interfax.ru is a good place to get Russia's latest business, religious, and political news. Simply click the tab marked "English version" at the top of the page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I need to mention that our chapter extends deepest sympathies to member Joy Glick and her family. Joy's husband died this past March and the chapter will miss him. Fred and Joy were at many of our meetings and always took interest in looking into Fred's genealogy. Joy, please know that the chapter keeps you and your family members in prayer.

Well, we are less than a month and a half away from the 38th International AHSGR Convention that will be held here in Hays at the Holiday Inn. I hope that *all* of you will attend this event. We are very grateful to have this convention right in our own backyard. If you can't attend the whole week, at least take in some of the days. Take that money that you use to go out to eat for two weeks and save it for your registration. I would love to see a full 100% chapter turn-out and show Lincoln that we are very proud of our heritage in this area.

Our membership has grown over the past year. In fact, we are up to 94 members at this time. My goal was to have at least 100 members by the time of the convention, and we just might make it! Have you invited any friends or relatives to join?

Our next meeting, coming on Sunday, April 29 will be a planning meeting for the convention. We will discuss the various ways that your help will be greatly needed. We have started a sign-up book and those names have been sent to the co-ordinator of

volunteers, so you should be contacted soon, if that has not happened already. We need people to help in the bookstore, computer room, country store, genealogy room, and hospitality room. Volunteers are needed for the information and membership table and the registration table. Help is needed with selling tickets for the quilt raffle, handling welcome packets, taking pictures as roaming photographers, setting up on Sunday, and decorating tables. Volunteers are needed for various tasks connected with Village Night and Welcome Night. I am really going to rely on our members to help sing many of the old songs for Welcome Night. I know there are singers in our group and you know who you are, so when I call on you to help me on this, please say yes!

This upcoming meeting will be very informative, so bring your questions. Start checking the Hays Daily News regularly. By the time this newsletter goes out, we should have had at least one article and a few letters to the editor show up in print. That is where you can help, too. Please write letters to the editor about our heritage and the excitement of having over 900 people here to celebrate our heritage with us. The city of Hays has not seen this many Germans from Russia pouring into the community for at least 131 years!

One more thing I need to mention. Although it is a little bit early to bring this up, I want you members to seriously think about this. My term will be ending in October, and I can

tell you I have had great fun being your president and I have enjoyed every minute of it, but my two terms will be up. I will be appointing a nominating committee this summer to find a new slate of officers. Seriously think about offering your time to help make this chapter continue to grow and expand. If someone comes up to you and says, "Would you consider running for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary?" please say yes! If you know of someone in our chapter that you think will be a good officer, let us know!

One final note. I want to thank Marvin Rack, owner of Northwest Printers of Hays, for agreeing to print our newsletters for the rest of this year, as well as many of the convention posters that you see around town. Marvin is a Sunflower Chapter member and we appreciate his generosity, so if you need a printer, please consider giving Marvin Rack your business and tell him thank you for providing us with his services.

--Kevin Rupp



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Walter and Teckla Baker
Don and Diane Waldschmidt
Randy and Carol Brull
John and Joan Jacobs
Irvin and Terry Leiker



NEWS & MEDIA TIDBITS

-- Interfax reports that Easter is one of Russia's most popular holidays. Recent surveys indicate that 84% of the population celebrates the holiday by making and eating traditional Easter foods, 37% by visiting a cemetery, and 22% by going to church. Only 7% claim not to celebrate Easter at all.

--Saint Andrew's Biblical Theological

College has just released a Russian translation of Pope Benedict XVI's book on interfaith dialogue, *Many Religions, One Covenant*. It was written while the pope was still a cardinal, and its target audience is theologians, philosophers, and all those with a serious interest in its subject matter.

--Retired Russian cosmonaut Georgy Grechko recently made national headlines

when he proclaimed in an interview that God has saved his life many times, beginning with his period of military service during WWII. He said he was religiously observant as a boy but later turned to atheism under the influence of the book *Bible for Believers and Unbelievers* by a prominent Soviet atheist. But now in his old age he believes most events in his life have pointed to the existence of God.

Tribute to Lawrence Weigel from his son

Part Nine

Lawrence Weigel Jr. wrote this biography as a gift to his father while Lawrence Sr. was still alive. In Part Eight, we learned how Lawrence Sr. came to be an expert on Volga German music and folklore. With Part Nine, a proud son's tribute to his accomplished father concludes.

DAD SAID IN HIS JOURNAL that awards from Fort Hays State University and the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia are the most memorable to him. I think I know why. Both awards recognize him as a folklore scholar and give validity to the fact that his life's work is deeply rooted in the qualities associated with academic research. In one of his interviews in 1985, he said, "In the 1930s it was difficult to go to college for economic reasons. I believe I would have walked ten miles a day if I could have gone to college. That is how badly I wanted to go."

Dad donated more than 225 of his Volga German research items to the Fort Hays State University library, and the university recognized him in May of 1983 with a Distinguished Achievement Award. Although Dad never received that college degree he wanted so badly, it meant a great deal to him to be recognized by a university president. Dr. Gerald Tomanek, president of Fort Hays State University, said this about Dad at the formal presentation: "This gracious and unusual gentleman, through his lifelong interest in his Volga German heritage, has developed the image of his proud people into a legitimate and viable aspect of our regional lore, literature, and history; moreover, as a

teller of their stories and a singer of their songs, he has furnished us all with a living picture of those hardy forebears."

It doesn't get any better than that. From my point of view, he was as great as any *summa cum laud* college graduate or internationally recognized scholar.

Then on July 29, 1995, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia at their international meeting in Calgary, Canada. Dr. Tim Kloberdanz of North Dakota State University gave a brief history of Dad's life to the entire delegation and then presented the award by saying, "This award is given to Lawrence Weigel for his positive influence on the society in the advancement of its goal and purpose of the preservation of the heritage of the Germans from Russia." Dad was unable to attend due to health reasons, but received the award at a special reception in Hays at a later date.

Once again, it was the academic community who wrote stacks of letters and sent accolades about Dad's contributions to preserving Volga German folklore and history. Professor William C. Keel wrote from the Department of Germanic Languages

and Literature at the University of Kansas, "I can state categorically that without the personal engagement and assistance of Lawrence Weigel, our efforts to record, preserve, and analyze the remaining Volga German dialects in Kansas would be extremely difficult if not impossible."

Simply put, all of Dad's lifetime work is at the PhD academic level. He just never had the official title. So I'm going to go back more than 200 years and reclaim a title that was given erroneously to Thomas Weigel. Our family can trace its roots back to Thomas Weigel, who was born in Passau, Germany, in 1738. In 1776, when Thomas was 28, he and his family migrated to Russia and settled in the colony of Herzog along the Volga River. For many years our family, including Dad, believed that Thomas was a doctor. New information surfaced not that long ago, and we learned that Thomas was actually a barber. Now I'm going to take the liberty of taking back Thomas' doctor title and pass it on to Dad. So, on behalf of our family, *I hereby designate Lawrence A. Weigel as an Honorary Doctor of Volga German Studies*. Maybe 200 years from now when someone is reviewing Dad's work, they will refer to him as Dr. Weigel. And this time, they will know the title is legitimate.



CALCULATING RELATIONSHIPS

Have you ever walked into store in town and started a conversation with someone and then been asked, "Now how are you related to me?"

Have you ever heard of the term "first cousin once removed"? Maybe you have thought, once removed--once removed from what? (And there we go again, using that word *once*, which seems to be such a big favorite among our people!)

Well, here is a system that is used by most genealogical societies and civil courts to determine relationships. To use the chart pictured here, this is what you do. Start with the vertical column on the far left and see which label fits you in connection with the common ancestor you share with someone

else. Then find the other person's relationship to your common ancestor by using the row along the top. Follow the row and column until they meet, and that is your relationship with the other person.

ON COUSINS, NIECES, AND NEPHEWS

When looking at old documents, I have been told that if you see the word *cousin* in the document, be careful how you determine what it means because in colonial times this word often meant "niece" or "nephew." But I don't think we have to worry about that so much when looking at old Russian records.

AT A RESEARCH IMPASSE?

Need ideas on where to find additional genealogical information?

(continued on page 6)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Common Ancestor	Son or Daughter	Grandson or Daughter	Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	
2	Son or Daughter	Siblings (Brothers or Sisters)	Nephew of Niece	Grand Nephew or Niece	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	2nd Great Grand Nep/Niec	3rd Great Grand Nep/Niec	4th Great Grand Nep/Nie	
3	Grandson or Daughter	Nephew Or Niece	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three times Removed	First Cousin Four times Removed	First Cousin Five times Removed	
4	Great Grandson or Daughter	Great Grandson Or Daughter	Grand Nephew Or Niece	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	
5	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Gat Grandson Or Daughter	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Three times Removed	
6	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grand Nephew of Niece	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	
7	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Times Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	
8	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grand Nephew of Niece	First Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Four Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	

NEED AN EXTRA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

for someone who is
not an AHSGR member?

Go to www.volgagerman.net
and download all the extra copies you need!



This is third in a series of unedited reprints. The column "Liebenthal Locals" appeared in the LaCrosse Republican intermittently throughout the early 1900s. Chapter members Judy Hoffman and Robert L. Pfeifer kindly obtained photocopies for us from Barnard Library in LaCrosse.



The 1885 opening of Saratov's Radischev Museum. (Illustration courtesy of Wikipedia)

Welcome to the Saratov region

by Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA

With Bishop Clemens Pickel of Saratov slated as our banquet speaker for the 2007 convention, I thought it would be fun to visit the Saratov region's official website (www.saratov.gov.ru) to learn more about the place where the bishop lives and ministers. What follows is some of what I learned.

The region can boast of many firsts in Russian history. For example, Russia's first industrial gas field was discovered in the Saratov oblast. There was no public art gallery in the old Russian Empire until the 1885 opening of Radishchev Museum in the city of Saratov. The country's first national circus started there in 1873, and its first theatre for children opened in 1918. Finally, Russia's first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, is a Saratov native who, coincidentally, returned to earth from space by parachuting down into the familiar territory of his youth.

The famous Golden Horde, Mongol invaders from the East, took up residence in the Saratov region during the Middle Ages. In fact, they erected a great palace in the Volga River town of Uvek, where one legend says a landslide hit, causing many of the palace's treasures to be washed into the Volga. Some believe the treasures remain there, undiscovered, to this day.

As Russia wrested control of the area away from the Mongols, Russian forts began to dot the landscape. In 1590 one such fort was constructed in Saratov. By the middle of the 1600s, Saratov was a town of about 300-400 military people. Eventually, in the spring of 1674 Tsar Aleksei ordered the complete rebuilding of Saratov. In June 1722, Peter the Great visited the city on his way to Persia. By the late 1700s, Saratov had become a center of grain commerce, industry, fishing, and tanning. Aside from a brief period in 1774 when Pugachev's army came to Saratov and threatened the city, it continued to grow and prosper.

As we know, the arrival of German settlers in the region during the late 1700s contributed to the general growth of the area surrounding Saratov. By 1812 Germans occupied a portion of the city itself, especially along Nikolskaya and Nemetskaya Streets. (*Nemetskaya* is the Russian word for "German.") These streets today are known as Radishcheva Street and Kirova Prospect.

In 1838, residents of Saratov saw a steamboat dock in their river harbor for the first time ever, and railroad tracks reached the city in 1871. Saratov's first bank opened in 1863 and its first steam-powered mill, in 1865.

(continued on page 8)

THE LACROSSE REPUBLICAN
August or September 1914

Rather dusty, need a rain.

Andrew Weaver is still sick.

Ignatious Weaver will finish threshing this week.

More wheat is being sown this year than last year.

Conrad Werth was here from Schoenchen Sunday.

C.P. Schaffer spent Sunday with his parents in Spearville.

Walter and Lenore Jeffries attended the Hutchinson Fair.

Our town schools are progressing nicely with a good enrollment.

A very successful dance was held at Jack Hooper's Friday evening.

Father Stollenwerk is the owner of a new Studebaker Automobile.

Carl Engel, who threshes west of Liebenthal spent Sunday here.

C.P. Schaffer will leave for Omaha Saturday on a business trip.

John Byle, John Whitman and Joe Whitman left for their home at Marienthal Saturday.

The writer of these items will take your subscription for the Republican if you wish to subscribe.

The Liebenthal Farmers Union has purchased a lot in La Crosse on which they are erecting a building and scales.

If the Farmers Union continues to keep on growing soon every farmer in Big Timber township will be a member. The Union is making a success.

Capuchins, Agnesians, and Volga Germans

by Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA

It is well known that almost as soon as the Volga Germans arrived in Ellis County, Capuchin priests followed to minister to their needs. Perhaps less well known is that Hays' first Catholic priest, Father Valentine Sommereisen from Alsace, had advised his bishop to procure the Capuchins of Pennsylvania for the the county's burgeoning Volga German population. The Capuchins in turn invited the Sisters of St. Agnes from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to join them in their labors. The following is an excerpt from Agnesian Sister Margaret Lorimer's forthcoming book on the history of her congregation.

One hot July day in 1876, Father Hyacinth Epp of the Capuchin province in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wrote to his fellow Capuchin, Father Francis Haas, asking him for Sisters of St. Agnes to staff a mission in Herzog (Victoria), Kansas. In 1873, the Capuchins in Pittsburgh were among the thousands of religious who had left Germany because of the *Kulturkampf*. Bishop Louis Mary Fink of Kansas City had requested the order to take charge of the Volga Germans in Ellis and Rush Counties. When the Capuchins arrived, they were faced with the task of educating the youth. They saw procuring "a capable Catholic Sisterhood inured to privations and of solid stock" as the answer to their problem. Father Hyacinth had become acquainted with the Agnesians in East Liberty, Pennsylvania and, in the short year they were there, had grown to like them. Father Hyacinth's letter to Mother Agnes tried to be realistic: "For the beginning, conditions are not inviting, but it is not all bad. The school which the Sisters are to direct is a public school whose students are Catholic children. The yearly salary is \$300, free living quarters at first in a rented house; the next year, in a house

to be built by the church and presently occupied by the priests. The present church is to be converted into a school with room left for a chapel for the Sisters. I truly believe that in time the Sisters will have more schools in Ellis County, for the need is great and will not lessen. Presently the people are poor but every beginning is hard. I do not doubt that the Sisters coming would not be in vain."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

"My grandfather, a first-generation Volga German, was mayor of Fresno, California, and raisins were our claim to fame. I had spent most of my young life in this town...." So begins a reminiscence found in the 2004 book *A Glimpse of Heaven: The Remarkable World of Spiritually Transformative Experiences* by Carla Wills-Brandon, PhD.

The anonymous narrator goes on to describe a time she attended a rock concert in the 1960s when she was 15, while her mother lay sick in bed at home, dying from cancer. It was one of the rare times the narrator had left the house, for she had been caring for younger family members throughout her mother's long illness.

While waiting for Sly and the Family Stone to appear onstage at the big outdoor concert, she suddenly felt gripped by pain and weakness so strong that she could hardly sit up, so she wandered away to find a place to lie down. That turned out to be a parked ambulance, where she promptly fell asleep, not waking up again until the concert was over. When the teenager finally returned home, she learned that her mother had been taken away to the hospital in an ambulance--at the exact same hour she had fallen ill at the concert. Her mother died a short time later.

The title of this true story, which begins on page 176 of Wills-Brandon's book, is "I Felt Her Pain."

Kevin Rupp's Genealogy Update (continued from page 4)

Have you tried all of the following?

- Church records
- Cemetery stones
- Newspaper obits
- AHSGR's SOAR records
- Marriage records from the courthouse
- Immigration records
- Ship lists
- Old photos

Something that is now on the AHSGR website is the German Origins Project. This gives the First Settlers Lists as well as documentation on the German village of origin for many surnames that have been submitted to Dick Kraus, project leader. This is an on-going project for the society, so keep checking back for new postings. The web address is:

http://www.ahsgr.org/german_origins.htm

Important books that are available for research include the following:

- Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764-1767*, vol. 1-3, compiled by Dr. Igor Pleve. Available from AHSGR.
- 1798 Census of the German Colonies along the Volga*, vol. 1-2, compiled by Brent Alan Mai. Available from AHSGR.
- German Migration to the Russian Volga (1764-1767): Origins and Destinations*, compiled by Brent Alan Mai. Available from AHSGR.
- Migration from the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York*, vol. 1 (January 1875-September 1882).
- The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862*, compiled by Karl Stump. Available from AHSGR.

Materials thus far collected for the colony of Obermunjou include the following:

- 1798 Census
- 1834 Census (not a complete collection)
- 1850 Census
- 1857 Census
- Marriage Lists for 1850-'57, 1860, 1875, 1889, and 1893

I am willing to do any look-ups for people on the marriages.

**THE TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL
November 24, 1906**

Eight sturdy Russians arrived Thursday from Russia and joined the Russian colony in Garden Place addition. Their families will follow them shortly. Mrs. Monica Schmidt and her children, who were to have been here a few weeks ago to join Mr. Schmidt but were detained on account of illness at Bremen, are now delayed in Baltimore where the children are in a hospital suffering from an attack of measles.

Russia but were delayed at Baltimore by sickness, have started from that city and will reach North Topeka not later than Tuesday afternoon. George Schmidt and family, who were stranded at Bremen and received financial aid from North Topeka, are now in midocean on the steamer Brandenburg of the North German Lloyd line and will reach North Topeka the latter part of next week.

**THE TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL
December 3, 1906**

The North side flouring mills are doing a heavy shipping business at the present time and have been fairly well supplied with cars for the past two weeks.

North Topeka continues to receive additions for Little Russia. Mrs. Monica Schmidt and two children, who were en route here from

**THE TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL
December 4, 1906**

Two hardy Russians who have recently arrived from Russia and who preceded their families here were at the Union Pacific depot last evening to meet No. 1 from the east due at 8 p.m. and on which they expected their families to arrive. The meeting and reunion was a most happy one.

Presented courtesy of
Frank Jacobs and Gary Ubert

**THE ELLIS COUNTY NEWS
April 29, 1920**

A Serious Auto Smash-Up

Two cars are wrecked as a result of a collision of Ray Dreiling's Overland with Stanley Chittenden's Ford, two miles east of this place on the Golden Belt Road. Chittenden and Jacob Brungardt, who were with him, were bruised and cut up pretty badly. Chittenden maintains that he got as far to his side of the roadway as possible, but that the driver of the other car lost control of his car and swerved too far to one side, hitting him head-on. From the damaged condition of the cars it seems fortunate that more damage was not done.

Presented courtesy of the
ELLIS COUNTY SOCIETY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM,
100 W. 7th, Hays, Kansas



Winter Hours:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Tuesdays through Fridays

Admission: Adults, \$3. Children 3-12, \$1.

PHOTO FEATURE



This photo is among those taken by the Haas brothers who went to Russia a few summers ago. It has made the rounds among a number of their friends and acquaintances and eventually reached these pages courtesy of Tony Leiker.

The cemetery is in Zug. The name on the cross is "Lang, Alexander F." The "F" does not stand for a middle name as we know middle names in this country, for Russia's Germans have adopted the Russian custom of using a patronymic, a second name that says who one's father is. For example, the deceased might be Alexander Frederikovich, meaning "Alexander, son of Frederik."

This humble, home-made cross suggests a modest income on the part of those who erected it.

Welcome to the Saratov region

(continued from page 5)

Today the Saratov region is a part of Russia important for its industry and agriculture. The unemployment rate in 2003, the last year for which this statistic is available, was 11%. Almost three million people representing 111 different nations and nationalities occupy the region. Of these, the vast majority, 85.9%, are ethnic Russian. Ukrainians at 3.8% comprise the next-largest single ethnic group. Kazakhs, Tatars, and other Turkic-Mongolian descendents of the Golden Horde together comprise almost 5% of the region's population. A scant .6% of the total population is German.



The Saratov emblem was established in 1781. The three silver fish swimming toward each other on a field of blue represent the region's rich water and fishing resources.

The map shows where the Saratov region (or *oblast*) is located within the larger Russian Federation. The Krasnodar region, where Bishop Clemens Pickel spent Holy Week this year, is the region furthest west on this map.



(Emblem and map courtesy of Wikipedia; photos courtesy of Bishop Clemens Pickel)



At the Holy Saturday Mass in Krasnodarsk, Bishop Pickel confirms an elderly German woman.

At Easter services, a married couple brings up the gifts. She is German Catholic and he is Russian Orthodox.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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